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Public Health Department

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE

Skelmersdale Urban District

DURING THE YEAR

1946

BY

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

WIGAN:

E. SIDEBOTHAM, 25/27, WIEND.

Skelmersdale Urban District Council,

1946.

Chairman ' ' ' ' ' ' WM. SHAW, J.P.

Vice-Chairman ' ' ' T. A. FARRIMOND, J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee ' C. WELDING.

E. DRAPER.

W. FENNEY.

A. FOULKES.

H. HEATON.

J. HODSON.

R. J. HUMPHREYS.

W. G. KEATES, J.P.

J. RIGBY.

J. W. SHUFFLEBOTHAM.

J. WATKINSON.

J. T. WAREING.

J. WRIGHT.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1946 based on the work of the late Dr. H. E. Marsden to April, 1946, and of Dr. S. C. Gawne, who acted as Medical Officer of Health from April, 1946, to December, 1946.

The Vital Statistics show that the population of the district has risen to 5,883, an increase of 272, probably partly due to an increase in the number of births over deaths and to returning service personnel.

The birth rate of 22.4 per 1,000 population shows a marked and satisfactory increase of 4.3 on the figure of 18.1 for 1945 and compares favourably with the rate of 19.1 for England and Wales.

The death rate was 14.6 per 1,000 population, compared with a rate of 12.6 a year ago, an increase of 2.0 per 1,000 and higher than the figure of 11.5 for the whole of England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 75 per 1,000 live births showed a reduction on the figure of 127 for 1945, but is still far too high, although 6 of these 10 deaths were due to Prematurity or Congenital Malformations and were probably unavoidable.

The general health of the district has remained good; there were no deaths from the Zymotic Diseases, in fact only 5 cases of Scarlet Fever and 2 cases of Whooping Cough were notified at all. No cases of Diphtheria occurred, and there have only been 2 cases in Skelmersdale in the last eight years. Undoubtedly a fitting tribute to the late Dr. Marsden, who started the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme in 1935.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD.

July, 1947.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

H. E. MARSDEN, J.P., M.B., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law (to 1st April, 1946).

S. C. GAWNE, M.D., B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H., Barrister-at-Law (1st April-30th November, 1946).

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (from 1st December, 1946).

(Medical Officer of Health for the West Lancashire Rural District.)

Sanitary Inspector :

NOEL BENSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1946.

Area of the District—1,942 acres.

Resident Population (Registrar General's estimate at mid-1946)—5,883.

Number of inhabited houses, according to Rate Books at end of 1946—1,708.

Rateable Value—£19,812.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£76 16s. 3d.

					Male.	Female.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	69	57	126
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
(Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—22.4)							
STILLBIRTHS	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
(Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—63)							
DEATHS	...	...	...	...	53	33	86
							Deaths.
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :							
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :							
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

BIRTHS.

The number of births recorded in the Urban District during the year was 132, equal to a rate of 22.4 per 1,000 of the population. This represents an increase of 4.3 on the rate for 1945.

DEATHS.

The total deaths registered in the Urban District during the year numbered 86. Of this number 53 were males and 33 were females. The figure is 15 more than that for 1945 and 7 more than the average for the five years 1941-1945. The death rate for the year was 14.6 per 1,000 and was 2.0 more than 1945's rate.

There were no deaths during the year due to Zymotic and Epidemic diseases.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age, which gives an infantile mortality rate of 75 per 1,000 births.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT, 1946.

Causes.	Males.	Females.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Measles	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—
Acute Inf. encephalitis	—	—
Cancer	1	4
Diabetes	—	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	13	2
Heart diseases	14	12
Other circulatory diseases	—	—
Bronchitis	2	3
Pneumonia	2	3
Other respiratory diseases	—	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—
Other digestive diseases	1	—
Nephritis	1	1
Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	1
Premature birth	4	—
Congenital malformation, etc.	1	1
Suicide	1	—
Road traffic accidents	3	—
Other violent causes	2	1
All other causes	4	4
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR :		
Total	6	4
Legitimate	6	4
Illegitimate	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens of a simple nature, throat swabs, etc., are sent for examination at the E.M.S. Pathological Laboratory at the Ormskirk County Hospital. All other specimens are sent to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

Ambulance Facilities.

No ambulance is maintained in the township by the Local Authority or otherwise. Nevertheless, the ambulance facilities are adequate.

The Ormskirk General Hospital and the Wigan Royal Infirmary take cases from Skelmersdale, and both provide ambulances. The Lancashire Public Assistance Committee also have an ambulance attached to their Hospital at Ormskirk.

The West Lancashire Rural District Council remove infectious cases in their ambulance by contract with the Skelmersdale Council.

Nursing in the Home.

The Skelmersdale District Nursing Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. Its district includes Burscough Bridge, Lathom, Westhead, Hoscarr and Newburgh, all of which townships are in the Urban District of Ormskirk.

The following table gives particulars of the work done in Skelmersdale by the Nursing Association during the year 1st January, 1946, to 31st December, 1946:—

CASES NURSED.					VISITS.			TOTAL.	
Midwifery	Maternity	Surgical	Medical	T.B.	Nursing	Ante-Natal	T.B.	Cases	Visits
—	—	68	54	—	3257	—	—	122	3257

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Congregational Schoolroom in Witham Road is utilised every Wednesday morning as a Child Welfare Centre and Minor Ailments Clinic, under the direction of the appropriate Department of the County Medical Officer of Health.

An Immunisation Clinic is held on the second Tuesday in each month at 3.30 p.m. on the same premises by the District Medical Officer of Health.

Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.

There are no hospitals in the town.

The Ormskirk Public Assistance Hospital, and the voluntary hospitals at Ormskirk and Wigan, provide ample accommodation for medical and surgical cases, and there is a maternity ward at the Public Assistance Hospital.

Infectious cases are admitted to the Ormskirk Isolation Hospital under agreement with the Ormskirk Urban District Council, since the closure of the West Lancashire Rural District's Isolation Hospital at Holly House, Aughton. Smallpox cases go to Liverpool, also by agreement.

Summary of Admissions to and Discharges from the Aughton Infectious Diseases Hospital, 1946.

ADMISSIONS.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
DISCHARGES.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Journeys with Ambulance for patient			...	...	...	1
	Journeys with Ambulance for bedding			...	...	...	8
	Houses attended for disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	5
	No. of times disinfectant was used	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Rooms sprayed	...	...	...	...	...	6
	Articles stoved	...	...	...	...	...	48

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The supply of water in the district continues to be on the whole satisfactory in quality and quantity, excepting the East Boundary, where the pressure is low owing to the higher elevation. 1,705 houses are connected to the main.

The whole of the district is supplied with water by the Southport and District Water Board, from an artesian well situated at Scarth Hill in the parish of Lathom.

One sample was taken during the year by the Local Authority. Samples are also taken systematically by the Water Board, who send copies of analyses to the Medical Officer of Health. All these analyses were satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal.

The district is sewered on the partly separate system. The sewage from approximately 1,237 houses in the principal housing area is discharged by gravity through a 24-inch outfall sewer at the Council's Berry Street Disposal Works, and that from 255 houses in this area by a 15-inch outfall sewer at their Penny Lane Works.

The sewage at both works is treated by settlement and land irrigation, and periodical cleansing and repairs are carried out.

A complete sewerage and sewage disposal scheme was prepared by Mr. H. B. Ward, M.I.C.E., of Liverpool; and then a joint scheme was considered dealing with part of the Upholland Urban District. The joint scheme has been approved by the Lancashire County Council in principle, and application has been made for financial assistance.

Closet Accommodation.

Privy middens—102. No. of closets attached to these middens—144.

No. of pail closets—29.

No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)—Nil.

No. of movable ashbins—1,565.

No. of houses on water carriage system—1,536.

No. of fresh water closets—1,536.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1946.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	
(i) By the Local Authority	12
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	—
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts	
(i) By the Local Authority	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons	—

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1012
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2036
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	85
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	140
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation	50
(4) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be reasonably fit for human habitation	391

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	309
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR —

4. PROCEEDING UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES STATISTICS.

	Smallpox	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Poliomyelitis	Malaria	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia
Cases... ..	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1946.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED												Total Deaths	Hospital	
		YEARS													Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Un-der 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	25-65	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever	5	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	4	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	12	1	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	3	1	2	—	5	—	—

The following table shows the number, monthly distribution and nature of cases of infectious disease coming under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1946 :—

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTALS	Removed to Hospital
Anthrax ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MONTHLY TOTALS	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	8	1

Particulars of work done in connection with the scheme for Immunisation against Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria since the commencement in May, 1935, to December 31st, 1946.

SCHOOL.	Acceptances	Total on Register	Percentage immunised actually in School 31/12/46	Immunised against Diphtheria only	4 injections against Scarlet Fever	3 injections against both diseases	2 injections against both diseases	1 injection against both diseases	Final Schick Test	Schick Negative	Negative after re-test	Absent or left when results were read	Later refused treatment
Council 1935-45 1946	481 22	316 488	47.7%	3 —	378 18	322 19	2 —	2 —	410 —	368 —	25 —	9 —	4 3
Endowed 1935-45 1946	194 2	108 109	78.0%	— —	157 2	174 2	1 —	— —	177 —	161 —	2 —	11 —	5 —
Methodist 1935-45 1946	186 9	139 136	57.4%	3 —	119 8	144 7	3 —	1 —	184 —	158 —	18 —	3 —	4 1
St. Richards 1935-45 1946	224 2	105 102	93.1%	8 —	198 2	174 2	— —	— —	201 —	193 —	3 —	5 —	1 —
Under 1935-45 School Age 1946	381 63	— —	—	280 60	9 —	34 —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Over 1935-45 School Age 1946	13 —	— —	—	10 —	2 —	1 —	— —	— —	3 —	2 —	1 —	— —	— —
Hospital 1935-45 1946	16 —	— —	—	15 —	— —	9 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
TOTALS 1935-45 1946	1495 98	668 835	58.8%	319 60	863 30	858 30	6 —	3 —	977 —	882 —	49 —	28 —	14 4

Table showing Incidence and Mortality from Scarlet Fever, 1937-1946.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Cases... ..	7	10	1	—	4	4	5	10	8	5
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table showing Incidence and Mortality from Diphtheria, 1937-1946.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Cases... ..	2	16	2	—	1	4	1	1	1	—
Deaths	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—

Influenza and other Respiratory Diseases.

There were no deaths from Influenza during the year. Five deaths were recorded due to Pneumonia.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

Age Periods				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Years											
1—5	...	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	...		1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	...	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	...	...		1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	...	...		1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	...	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...			3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
				4		1		2		—	

Notifications on Form 1 by Medical Officers of Hospitals.

	Public Assistance and General and Military Hospitals				Sanatoria and Pulmonary Hospitals	
PULMONARY—						
Males	—		2
Females	—		2
NON-PULMONARY—						
Males	—		—
Females	—		—

Dispensary and sanatorium treatment for Tuberculosis is administered by the appropriate department of the Lancashire County Council.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	...	278
Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under the Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	927
Number of houses revisited	...	...	...	...	...	1024
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	85
Visits to Factory and Workplace	...	...	...	...	...	23
Visits to Bakehouses and Food Premises, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	31
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	34
Visits to Farm Premises	...	...	...	...	...	5
Visits to Schools	...	...	...	...	...	13
Visits to Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	25
Visits to Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	8
Visits to Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	8
Visits to Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
Visits of Inquiry re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	12
Smoke Test applied to Drains	...	...	...	...	...	12
Pollution of Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Interviews with Owners, Agents and Contractors	...	...	...	...	...	59
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	45
Visits re Milk-Tubercle Bacilli and Methylene Blue Tests	...	...	...	...	...	18
Visits re Ice Cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	8
<hr/>						
Number of Preliminary notices served	...	...	...	...	...	391
Number of Preliminary notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	309
Number of Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	63
Number of Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	53
Details of Sanitary Improvements and Nuisances Abated.						
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	58
Gutters and downspouts renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	89
External walls repointed	...	...	...	...	...	33
Walls and ceilings replastered and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	71
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	28
Doors and windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	29
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Firebacks and ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	28
Sink waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	27
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	10
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dangerous walls demolished and rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	22
Repairs to water supply	...	...	...	...	...	21
Drainage.						
Drains cleared of obstruction, repaired or improved	...	...	...	...	...	66
Water Closets.						
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...	...	...	...	37
New pedestal basins fitted	...	...	...	...	...	20
W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	68
Privy middens converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dry middens abolished	...	...	...	...	...	33
Dustbins.						
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	133
Miscellaneous repairs and nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	25
Estimated cost of above works	...	...	...	...	...	£3034

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Considerable progress has been made in the maintenance and repair of house property, in spite of the difficulties and shortages of materials and labour. However, it is quite apparent that some owners are reluctant to carry out repairs to property of low rental and poor structural condition.

It has not been possible to secure extensive reconditioning or demolition of unfit houses under the Housing Acts, but efforts have been made to prevent serious deterioration of existing housing standards by utilising the Public Health Act.

The severe weather conditions during the early months of the year caused some delay in repair work, and considerable damage to sanitary fittings. Suitable precautions are still not taken by many occupiers and owners to prevent damage to pipes and fittings by frost.

The position regarding overcrowding is somewhat obscure, but from information collected it has been estimated that approximately 93 houses were overcrowded according to the standards of the 1936 Housing Act.

Lack of adequate sewerage to certain parts of the district prevented any great progress in the conversion of existing privy middens to water closets. A considerable number of manholes to the sewers are not self-cleansing and require frequent attention to prevent nuisance.

The Housing and Planning Exhibition held by the Council in November, which coincided with the opening of the newly erected Council houses, provided an opportunity to give the public an insight into the work of the Public Health Department. Models were exhibited and films shown, illustrating the wide and important scope of the work and the services rendered.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The removal of house and shop refuse is carried out by the Council's staff under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. Owing to the smaller amount of salvage being collected the Council decided that the system could be operated efficiently under normal conditions with a team of four men instead of five, as in previous years. The Karrier Refuse Collection Vehicle, which is used, has now been in operation since July, 1940, when the Council commenced refuse collection by direct labour.

Dustbins and pail closets are emptied weekly, privy middens at least once a month.

Disposal is by means of crude tipping at the former reservoir site, Bromilow Road, which has now been completely filled, the site levelled and earthed over. By this method of refuse disposal, over an acre of useful land has been reclaimed for agricultural purposes, and is now bearing a crop of potatoes. During the year 2,250 tons of refuse was collected and disposed of without causing nuisance. A trailer is used for the collection of salvage, 12 tons of paper being collected and sold for re-pulping.

WATER COURSES.

The watercourses and ditches in the district receive periodic inspection and are usually cleansed and bottomed by their respective owners.

A considerable amount of pollution was caused by the discharge of an effluent from a potato dehydrating works into the River Tawd. The effluent had a particularly offensive smell and gave rise to a nuisance. Some improvement was made by the construction of settling tanks and the use of chemical precipitants.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Nearly half the milk consumed in the district comes from dairies in adjoining area, and a large part of the milk produced is sent out.

There are 8 Cowkeepers with premises within the district, keeping approximately 161 cows, other purveyors of milk numbering 5.

Premises are inspected frequently and maintained as well as the structural condition will allow. Many cowkeepers are anxious to have structural improvements carried out, when materials and labour are available. One dairyman has constructed a complete new modern shippon and dairy and obtained a licence from the County Council to produce "Accredited Milk."

Of the samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination one was found to be tubercle bacilli. This milk, which was produced within the district, was, however, subjected to pasteurisation before sale. The County Medical Officer of Health was notified and examination of the herd carried out by the Veterinary Officer. The infected animal was found, removed from the herd and slaughtered.

Cleanliness of Milk Supply.

The standard of cleanliness aimed at for milk supply is a satisfactory Methylene Blue Test and B. Coli absent in 1/100 c.c. Of the samples taken 3 were below this standard.

Milk (Special Designation) Order 1936-1946.

One cowkeeper holds a licence from the Lancashire County Council for the production of Accredited Milk, and the Council granted a Dealer's Licence to sell pasteurised milk to another purveyor.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following articles of food were, on inspection, found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered. Whenever possible the condemned food was used for animal feeding or other edible purposes, the remainder being destroyed.

Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	38 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	9 lbs.
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	...	25 lbs.
Semolina	...	...	...	...	...	140 lbs.
Wheat Flakes	...	...	...	...	...	33 lbs.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	9 lbs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	...	...	13 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	9 lbs.

RODENT CONTROL.

A maintenance treatment of the Council's sewers for the destruction of rats was carried out in the early months of the year, and a further full treatment later in the year. Results show a reduction in pre-bait and poison "takes" indicating that rat infestation of sewers is steadily decreasing. The poison chiefly used was zinc phosphide with a base of sausage ruck.

Out of 94 manholes pre-baited only 12 showed any "take," the estimated number of rats killed being 92. The Council have accepted the Ministry of Food schemes outlined in Circulars N.S. 11, which provide for a grant of 30% towards the cost of sewer treatment, and Circular N.S. 12, providing for the full cost of the Council's expenditure on the surface infestation survey. A grant of 60% is provided towards the cost of treatment in the case of infested private dwellings.

A complete survey of surface property in the district was carried out during the year, the results showing evidence of rat infestation at 12 premises, all of which were minor infestations and were suitably dealt with.

Very few complaints were received of rat infestation, proving the value of the methods of extermination adopted.

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Sanitary Inspector.

